

By: Canales

H.B. No. 321

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a statewide motor vehicle registration program to prevent transnational motor vehicle theft; authorizing fees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.0094 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.0094. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PROGRAM: TRANSNATIONAL THEFT. (a) In this section, "owner" means the owner of a motor vehicle as shown on the vehicle registration records of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles or the analogous department or agency of another state or country.

(b) The department shall develop a statewide motor vehicle registration program to help prevent the transnational theft of motor vehicles. The department may not implement the program unless the legislature subsequently provides by general law for the implementation of the program.

(c) Under the program, an owner of a motor vehicle may register the motor vehicle with the department to authorize a peace officer to stop the registered vehicle before the vehicle crosses the international border of this state.

(d) The department shall develop a form to register a motor vehicle under the program. The form must advise the owner of the motor vehicle regarding the provisions of Subsection (g). A motor

1 vehicle may not be registered under the program unless the owner  
2 consents to the provisions of Subsection (g).

3 (e) The program must provide a method for an owner to  
4 withdraw a motor vehicle from the program. The program may not  
5 require an owner of a motor vehicle to participate in the program.

6 (f) After implementation of the program, the department  
7 shall maintain a database of all motor vehicles registered under  
8 the program.

9 (g) A peace officer who observes a motor vehicle that is  
10 registered under the program and is crossing the international  
11 border of this state may stop the motor vehicle to determine whether  
12 the motor vehicle is being operated by the owner or with the owner's  
13 permission.

14 (h) The department shall propose rules to administer the  
15 program and may propose a registration fee in an amount sufficient  
16 to recover the cost of administering the program.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.